

Top Secret



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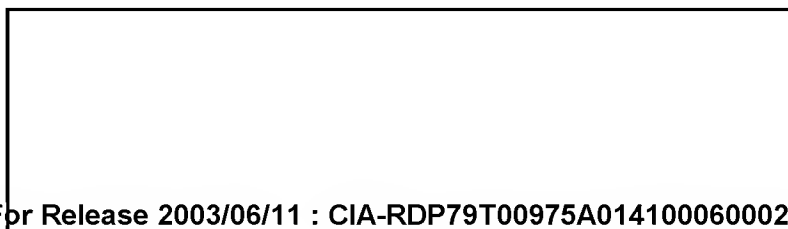


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El Salvador - Honduras: Popular support in El Salvador for an aggressive policy toward Honduras is impeding settlement efforts. (Page 6)



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El Salvador - Honduras: Popular support in El Salvador for a tough policy toward Honduras is still impeding attempts to resolve the conflict.

Salvadoran President Sanchez, under strong international pressure to defuse the crisis, fears taking a position less hawkish than the prevailing public mood. He has not yet devised a solution which would retain the prestige of the military without resorting to a military offensive against Honduras. The Salvadoran chief of staff has claimed that this is the only real solution. There are reports that junior officers are being taunted in public for not fighting.

25X1 The Salvadoran foreign minister has said [] [] that a comprehensive plan put forth by the Central American mediators is unacceptable because it tends to lay blame equally on both countries. The Salvadoran Government is at work on a plan of its own which would establish a claims commission, and station permanent representatives of the mediators and of the OAS Human Rights Commission in both countries. The plan would also call upon both governments to abstain from any border provocations and provide for the normalization of activities within the Central American Common Market.

25X1 Attempts are currently under way to sell the plan to the cabinet, the military, and the opposition political parties. A decision whether to move ahead with the plan is expected within the next day or two. [] []

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